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Kernan Announces \$294,600 in Training Grants for Three Northeastern Indiana Businesses

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that three northeastern Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF).

"Grants like these allow companies to train their employees in the latest technology and skills, and that's a great investment," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "We're proud to be a partner in these training efforts because they not only keep our companies competitive, they also ensure that Hoosier workers are up-to-date on advancements in their fields."

- **Eaton Corporation – Fuller Clutch Division**, Auburn, has been awarded a \$120,000 grant to train 400 incumbent employees as part of a \$6.73 million investment in building renovations and new equipment. Founded as Auburn Clutch in 1936, it was acquired by Dana Corp. in 1947. In 1997, Eaton purchased the Spicer division from Dana, and since that time has made improvements in profitability/cost reduction, productivity and delivery performance. Eaton will use the grant to train employees in basic math, computerized numeric coding, lean manufacturing, computer skills and quality control procedures.
- **Lincoln Food Service Products, Inc.**, Fort Wayne, was awarded a \$96,000 grant to train employees in 20 new positions and 300 existing workers following the company's \$1.5 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. Incorporated in 1901, the company manufactures aluminum cooking utensils and markets products in the U.S., internationally, and through independent dealers. Lincoln will use the Commerce grant to train employees in basic math and reading, forklift operation, computer skills, lean manufacturing, blueprint reading and quality control.
- **Mullinix Packages, Inc.**, Fort Wayne, has been awarded a \$78,600 grant to train 12 new and 300 existing employees as a result of the company's \$7.25 million investment in new buildings, equipment and land. In business since 1970, Mullinix provides package design, rapid prototyping, correct material selection and cost-effective container production. The privately owned company is a leading supplier of plastic containers for the food industry. Employees will gain skills in forklift and extruder operation, forming processes, thermoforming, and computer-automated design, among other instruction.

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Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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